

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 28, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 11; Tuesday, January 12; and Wednesday, January 13, 2016, I took medical leave to attend appointments related to an upcoming hip replacement surgery and was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yes" on roll call vote No. 34 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 598, as amended), "Yes" on roll call vote No. 35 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2321, as amended), "No" on roll call vote No. 36 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 583), "No" on roll call vote No. 37 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 583), "Yes" on roll call vote No. 38 (on agreeing to the Kil-dee Amendment to H.R. 1644), "Yes" on roll call vote No. 39 (on agreeing to the Cartwright Amendment to H.R. 1644), "Yes" on roll call vote No. 40 (on agreeing to the Sewell Amendment to H.R. 1644), "Yes" on roll call vote No. 41 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1644, with instructions), "No" on roll call vote No. 42 (on passage of H.R. 1644), "Yes" on roll call vote No. 43 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 757, as amended), Pursuant to a unanimous consent request made by Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, and agreed to without objection, the roll call vote No. 44 and the motion to reconsider thereon were vacated and further proceedings on the question of passage of H.R. 3662 postponed as though under clause 8 of rule 20 through the legislative day of January 26, 2016, and "No" on roll call vote No. 45 (on passage of H.R. S.J. Res. 22).

## IN HONOR OF GALIYA UMAROVA

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 28, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I inform this House that on January 4, 2016, Galiya Umarova, wife of Ambassador Kairat Umarov of Kazakhstan passed away.

The Ambassador and Galiya were married for thirty years.

Their son, Gaini, currently works for an international consulting group in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Galiya and her husband have known each other much longer than the beginning of his diplomatic career.

The two met in English class, where he entertained her with his funny stories.

Galiya grew up in Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city and the country's foremost historical, financial and cultural center.

She dedicated her life to the promotion of the importance of education and was a passionate supporter of building progress in her home country, including her husband's work on behalf of his country.

For example, the Ambassador and Galiya were posted to the United States capitol three different times in the span of 15 years.

Known as the land of peace and prosperity, the beautiful country of Kazakhstan sits on 3,000 years of extraordinary history.

The country's development has been influenced by legends such as Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan.

For centuries, the Silk Road through Kazakhstan served as one of the world's oldest and most historically significant trade routes.

All of this has contributed to the richness of the Kazakh culture and its capacity to adapt and develop.

Much like her home country, Galiya Umarova adapted and developed as she accompanied her husband throughout his diplomatic service for his country.

In fact, Galiya adapted to the DC life by driving herself around town, navigating the hectic DC traffic.

Galiya and the Ambassador traveled the world over, spreading the imperative of cultural tourism, the beautiful culture of Kazakhstan and its over 140 different ethnic groups, while working to promote peace at home and in bilateral relations such as its relationship with the United States.

The couple embodied what former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan declared about their country: "Kazakhstan may serve as an example of a peaceful multiethnic country where ethnic diversity is a blessing, but not a curse."

Kazakhstan is located in the central part of Eurasia, almost equidistant from the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Indeed, throughout history, Kazakhstan was an arena for brisk commercial and political relations and it now plays an important role as a link between Europe, Central Asia and the rapidly developing Asian-Pacific region.

Notwithstanding her husband's busy diplomatic schedule over the past 2 decades, Galiya worked hard to bring balance into her family life.

For example, she always found time to enjoy comedy films with her family.

She also enjoyed a variety of hobbies such as tennis, golf, practicing yoga, growing her own natural fruits and vegetables in her garden.

Today, I hope my colleagues will join me in sending prayers and condolences to Ambassador Umarov and his family.

I also ask for a moment of silence in Galiya Umarova's honor and memory.

**HONORING VETERAN EDISON THOMAS BROWN, JR.****HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 28, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Edison Thomas Brown, Jr.

U.S. Army Veteran Edison Thomas Brown, Jr. is a Mississippi native who was born and reared in the hills of Holmes County within the U.S. Second Congressional District.

Born in the very late 1950's, Mr. Brown, and other youth like him, grew up during the heat of oppression, segregation and poverty of the Holmes County 1960s civil rights movement. Yet, Mr. Brown says, he nor his family ever viewed themselves as underclass.

Although poor by economic standards and conditions, he and his siblings learned early of the importance of working hard to make a decent living by two nurturing parents, who were farmers themselves and who also worked for white farmers as well, picking cotton and such. His parents were Edison Thomas Brown, Sr. and Ednora Randle Brown (both now deceased).

His father was also a U.S. Army veteran who served in World War II. In fact, Mr. Brown says he was inspired to volunteer to serve his country in the military by his father and eldest brother James, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran. After graduating from high school at what is formerly known as Tchula Attendance Center (TAC) in Tchula, MS, he began his military career in July, 1975 at Fort Knox, Ky.

During his tour of duty, he was trained and served as a Track Vehicle Mechanic, specializing in diesel repairs. His U.S. military career also included service in Gelnhausen, Germany.

While in the military, he earned the rank of Specialist 4th Class (SPEC 4). Proud to serve his country, Mr. Brown is grateful that his military career afforded him many travels that he would not have afforded to make and opportunities he possibly would not have had.

Mr. Brown's tour of duty concluded at Fort Stewart, GA in 1979; however, he remained in reserve status until 1981, when he received an Honorable Discharge.

After the military, Mr. Brown took advantage of the GI Bill and began to educate himself (part-time) in Electronic Service Technology coursework. Over the years, he has served in several employment capacities in the Metro Jackson area. His longest stint was with McRaes Distribution and its merging operations, 1985–2001.

Today, a Clinton, Miss. resident in the Second Congressional District, Mr. Brown spends most of his time actively serving in Holy Temple Baptist Church of West Jackson, pastored by the history-making Rev. Audrey Lynne Hall. At Holy Temple as a deacon, he is Chairman and also serves as Sunday School Superintendent and teacher. He, his wife, Gail, and son, Edison, III, have also participated in the church's ongoing Homeless Outreach Ministry in which the church gives toiletries, snacks and other needful items to the homeless once a month at Poindexter Park near Downtown Jackson.

Mr. Brown's favorite scripture of the Bible in which he tries to live by is Proverbs 3:5–6—"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a special Veteran, Mr. Edison Thomas Brown, Jr., for his dedication and support to the Holmes County Community.

## PATRICIA SPENCER

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 28, 2016*

Mr. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of an extraordinary leader and passionate advocate for freedom and justice, Ms. Patricia Spencer.